

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01 SAM-01 AID-05 /082 W

----- 126951

R 081430Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9506

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 7216

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SA

SUBJ: MAS'UD NAMED ACTING MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS

1. BY ROYAL DECREE THE KING HAS NAMED DEPUTY MINISTER OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS MOHAMMED IBRAHIM MAS'UD TO BE ACTING
MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THIS ACTION REIN-
FORCES OUR IMPRESSION THAT THE KING IS IN NO HURRY TO
NAME A SUCCESSOR TO THE LATE OMAR SAQQAF.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT FROM THE KING'S PERSPECTIVE A HASTY
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CHOICE IS NEITHER WISE NOR NECESSARY BECAUSE (A) THE

MINISTRY CONTINUES TO FUNCTION IN ITS HANDLING OF DAY TO DAY AFFAIRS AS IT DID BEFORE SAQQAF'S DEATH (WHICH FROM ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE COULD BE AMPLE REASON FOR THE URGENT CHOICE OF A SUCCESSOR), (B) THERE IS NO PERSON TRUSTED TO THE SAME DEGREE AS WAS SAQQAF WHO IS BOTH CAPABLE OF HANDLING THE JOB AND WHO CAN BE SPARED FROM OTHER WORK, AND (C) THE APPOINTMENT OF ANYONE BUT A NONENTITY AT THIS TIME WOULD LEAD TO SOME CONTROVERSY WITHIN THE SAUDI ESTABLISHMENT. THE KING DOESN'T LIKE CONTROVERSY IF IT CAN BE AVOIDED. WITHIN A FEW MONTHS A NATURAL, UNCONTROVERSIAL SUCCESSOR TO SAQQAF MAY HAVE EMERGED.

AKINS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740356-0446
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Review Markings:

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005